10/15/71

Dear Pearl,

Now that it is established that ylu are my junior and because it seems that we will, from time to time be in touch, I take the liberty of avoiding the excessively formal so that in all ways we can be less formal. My friends call me by my first name or as Hal, the younger one, who are in the majority, the shorter form. Most of those with whom we today are close are young enough to be our children, in one case, of a brilliant collaborator, he could be my grandson. We are childless.

Possible political developments for which I must prepare make my time more limited at this moment.

Do not let my hunch interfere with your plans, but it is that you should do the book first and sell a condensation or a series of articles. However, if your proposed collaborator has connections, his judgement may be much better. The story may kill the book. Unless the book follows much later, it will kill the collateral or subsidiary rights whic, in the U.S. can be more profitable than the book. But I know a couple of reporters connected with syndicates, if in time this can help. They are not executives.

The Times clipping is enclosed. No rush on its return. I have a close friend in a distant city to whim I've written about the (thanks) Excelsior pieces.

I'm glad you appreciate my directness. To be otherwise is not to be a friend. Don't take my word and opinions without question, but I'll be truthful and my judgements are usually with solid substantiation if I offer them. My experience with various people at Ramparts (in the past) and with Turner in partocular were the basis of what I said. Turner is a professional incompetent in the field in which I work and a blatant plagiarist, alas. Ramparts has done much good, but they have always been simultaneously dishonest.

By the way, I can't speak for him, but Vedric Belfrage, if you do not know him, is one to whom you might well speak. I am full of respect for him and he is a man of courage and principle-and a fine writer. I have never met him and it has been some years since I have heard from his. His beautiful (in every way) daughter did try to help me some years ago. My last ddress for him is Apartado 630, Cuernavaca Morelos, Phone Cuernavaca 2-41-14. He has a good understanding of the U.S. market.

The safest approach ~~xxxx~~ with Garrison is to begin with disbelief. On Boddy: there never was any official emissary, and what Mark Lane used was ruinous in many ways, unoriginal, and the crassest commercialization to promote his (very bad) Citizen's Dissent. I think the family knew and knows nothing, including Bobby. The best that can be said for that to which I think you alude, the alleged Guantanamo incident, is that it is conjecture.

Your comment on Velasquez reminds me of another possibility: could you do this non-fiction better and faster in the form of a novel?

I am aware of the connubial considerations of the Mexican penal system. The tragic part is that you unintendedly put it so accurately, !(In Mexico, a man can <u>have</u> a woman for a weekend if he's well behaved...)". But speaking of the woman, I take another liberty: if you do not have a tape recorder, I would encourage you to consider using one for interviews, preferable the cassette type, which is more convenient. If you are unfamiliar with them, the two problems are not reallt problems. One is that infrequently people are afraid to talk on the record, and you can usualy estimate that accurately in advance, and the other is that them sometimes ham it up when they see the mike. But it makes a better record, and memory is, sadly, so fragile! Later, things to which we paid no or scant attention of what we sometimes forget can be of great value, as we learn more and understand better.

No, you are not confusing me on this. I find it fascinating. I do think it has

real possibilities as pretended fiction. You can say the same things and work in what is so commercial, the sex and and the characterizations you otherwise might not dare. (What a job you could do on Hizer with help I can supply in either form!)

Speaking of the King matter, remember there can be some hazard to you and those you might enlist in anything having to do with any political assassination. I have also heard enough of the Mexican police, and I know how they work with the FBI. Be careful. You can't do enough good to justify <u>any</u> risk. But expand this to include any scuttlebutt about Oswald, if you hear any or if you know reporters you can trust who may have heard things that couldinterest me. Again, caution. No risk at all, please.

Is stuffed cabbage a Mexican dish? I come from Eastern European ancestry, and I love it, but I didn't know it is part of the Latin cuisine, and I have know some very fine Latin-American cooks.

Yes, my focus remains on the assassinations. I suggest you not make a restrictive interpretation of this, because it is not on simple crimes but in the broader, political context, one of the things that makes for unacceptability in the market-place and that also distinguishes me from almost all the others writing with seriousness in the field. If you'd like copies of the books I publisher myself (I had to invent the "underground" book to get out at all) I can send you damaged but readible copies, which could provide the basis for asking questions about Oswald.

If I forget to apologize for my typing, I never have time to reread my letters, andI started typing hunt-and-peck in high school. So, I do apologize.

Best regards,